DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY AND DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND RECREATION NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING AND PUBLIC COMMENT

The Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) and the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) seek written and oral comments from interested persons on the development of a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Implementation Plan for Middle River and its tributaries in Augusta County. The Upper Middle River, Lower Middle River, Moffett Creek, and Polecat Draft were originally listed as impaired in the 1996 303d Report. All streams were listed for violations of the water quality standard for bacteria and the Upper Middle River segment and Moffett Creek were additionally listed for the general aquatic life (benthic) standard. TMDLs for bacteria were developed to address the bacterial impairments in all streams. A TMDL for sediment in Upper Middle River and Moffett Creek were developed to address the benthic impairments. These TMDLs were approved by EPA on August 10, 2004 and are available on DEQ's website at http://gisweb.deq.virginia.gov/tmdlapp/tmdl_report_search.cfm.

§62.1-44.19:7.C of the Code of Virginia requires the development of an Implementation Plan (IP) for approved TMDLs. The IP should provide measurable goals and the date of expected achievement of water quality objectives. The IP should also include the corrective actions needed and their associated costs, benefits, and environmental impacts.

Public participation is critical to the implementation planning process. DCR and DEQ will hold a first public meeting on **July 16, 2009 at 7:00 pm** to inform the public of the IP development and to solicit participation. The meeting will be held at the Churchville Fire Hall at 3829 Churchville Avenue in Churchville, VA. Following this first informational meeting, DCR and DEQ will hold meetings for interested stakeholders to join working groups, which will direct the process and provide input to the Agencies.

The public comment period for this first public meeting will end on August 17, 2009. Questions or information requests should be addressed to Nesha Mizel, DCR, (540) 332-9238. Written comments should include the name, address, and telephone number of the person submitting the comments and should be sent to Nesha Mizel, 44 Sangers Lane, Suite 102, Staunton, VA 24401 (540-332-9238) or Nesha. Mizel@dcr.virginia.gov.